

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action of May 5, 2004, are earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-8 and 11 have been amended to clarify Applicants' invention and claims 14-18 have been canceled, leaving claims 1-13 pending in the application. The amendments herein are not believed to be limiting in scope.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 11 now calls for "an operator selectable first parameter level", which finds clear support in the specification, for example, at Paragraph 14, lines 7-9, and Paragraph 21, lines 6-9.

Claims 1-7 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14-18 have been canceled. The various instances of lack of antecedent basis have been corrected by the above amendments of claims 1-7. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 8-10, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brewer et al. (U.S. Patent 5,255,324) in view of Nicola et al. (U.S. Patent 4,912,424). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Brewer specifically teaches restoring the first parameter (narrowband gain) prior to restoring the second parameter (wideband gain) - i.e., in the same order as the first and second parameter are reduced, or "attacked", to eliminate clipping distortion. Nicola's analog system

begins both the attack mode and the restoration mode by simultaneously operating on the wideband and narrowband gains. The wideband gain is recovered first, because its RC time constant is smaller. The cited combination therefore does not render obvious Applicants' claims which call for attacking the first parameter and then the second parameter and then restoring the first parameter only after the second parameter has been fully restored. Furthermore, Brewer specifically teaches away from Nicola, and combining the references would not be considered by one skilled in the art.

Claims 1-13 are therefore believed allowable over the art of record.

Claims 1-8 and 11, as amended herein, and Claims 9-10 and 12-13, as originally submitted are believed to be in condition for allowance, early acknowledgment of which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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